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In the winter part
2 ways

SANDY URBAN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1961

OF THE



Medical Officer of Health

AND

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

The Lion Press, Sandy



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1961

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Sandy Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions in respect of the Sandy Urban District for 1961.

The vital statistics are very satisfactory, although the infant mortality rate is rather high this year. In a small district however, this is of less significance than the general level of mortality which has occurred over the last ten years; this works out at an average of 16.8 and is lower than the national average.

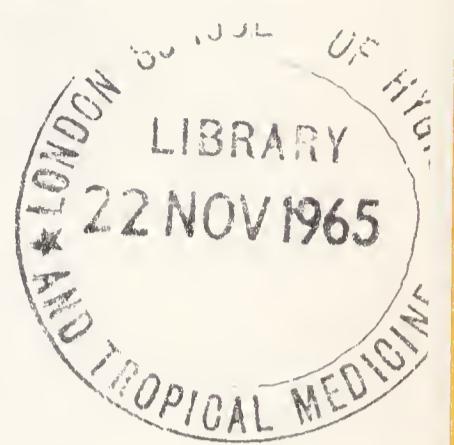
The number of male deaths under the age of 65 is high, and as will be seen from the table enclosed, the commonest cause of death in this age group, was cancer of the lung. This underlines the recent reports of the relationship between this disease and cigarette smoking.

The only infectious disease which was at all common during the year was Measles; a disease which at present there is little we can do to control.

Two sanitary matters affecting the district were considered during the year. First, there was an objectional odour coming from a local fertilizer factory and a considerable number of visits were made to investigate this and some progress was made in minimising the smell. Efforts in this direction are continuing.

The other matter was in relation to the pollution of the River Ivel. I took some samples from the river during the summer following a report from a local doctor that children had picked up an infection while bathing there and the bacteriological reports indicated that the water was highly polluted and I advised that it was not safe for bathing.

Control over the pollution of the river is a matter for the Great Ouse River Board who are empowered to enforce a minimum standard for effluent entering the river. The standards at present in use, are those laid down by the Royal Commission, (1912) which is based upon the oxygen demand and suspended solids. Unfortunately, the degree of pollution of rivers in this country is considerable and these standards are very low and even when fully complied with, they do not really ensure that rivers are fit for bathing in.



The chief source of pollution is effluent from public sewerage works and the most effective way of improving the cleanliness of the river would be to improve the method of dealing with these effluents. The Board's chemist tells me that some success has been obtained in experiments with sand filtration or lagooning of effluent, but I do not think this is at the moment, practicable.

This is one aspect of the large problem of waste disposal in a highly populated country and I think that some radical re-thinking is necessary on the whole subject. The replacement of the old earth closet and midden has removed one nuisance but water-born sewerage systems which replaced them have now produced other problems. It is, at the moment, overshadowed by the more acute problem of river pollution by industrial wastes, not fortunately, a serious problem locally, but one which will have to be solved before we can tackle the problem of raising present standards, for the less serious problem of non-industrial effluents. In the meantime, we have to pay the price for the convenience of having our houses properly drained by refraining from bathing in the rivers except in the remoter areas of the country.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Council and Council staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. S. BURY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4362
Registrar-General's Estimate of Home Population				...	3940
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1961				...	1243
Rateable Value	...	...	...		£41,765
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...		£168

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	29	30	59
Illegitimate	...	—	1	1
		—	—	—
		29	31	60

Crude Birth Rate per 1000 home population	15.2
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1000 home population	15.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.1

STILL BIRTHS

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	0	1	1
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births				16.4
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales				18.7

DEATHS

		Males	Females	Total
All causes	...	25	15	40
Crude Death Rate per 1000 home population				10.2
Area Comparability Factor				0.98
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 home population				9.9
Death Rate for England and Wales				12.0

Maternal Mortality—Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Rate for all infants per 1000 live births				33.3
Rate for England and Wales				21.4

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births) ...	...	...	33.3
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births) ...	...	...	16.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths)			33.3

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

Causes	Under 16 years		16—65		Over 65		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F		
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	
2. Tuberculosis, other	
3. Syphilitic disease	
4. Diphtheria	
5. Whooping Cough	
6. Meningococcal infections	
7. Acute poliomyelitis	
8. Measles	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	...	2	
11. Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus	4	...	...	...	4	
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplas	1	1	...	...	2	
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	...	...	...	1	
16. Diabetes	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	1	1	2	5	
18. Coronary disease, angina	1	...	2	2	5	
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	
20. Other heart disease	1	3	4	
21. Other circulatory disease	1	1	...	...	2	
22. Influenza	
23. Pneumonia	1	1	2	
24. Bronchitis	2	...	2	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	
31. Congenital malformations	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	...	1	...	3	...	5	
33. Motor vehicle accidents	
34. All other accidents	1	...	1	
35. Suicide	1	...	...	...	1	
36. Homicide and operations of war	
Totals		1	1	11	3	13	11	40

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

Prematurity ... 1

Congenital abnormality ... 1

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1952-1961

Year	Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate	
	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales
1952	10.8	11.3	—	27.6	11.5	15.3
1953	8.5	11.4	15.9	26.8	16.8	15.5
1954	8.7	11.3	15.9	25.5	16.8	15.2
1955	10.6	11.7	16.7	24.9	16.0	15.0
1956	9.0	11.7	14.7	23.8	18.1	15.7
1957	13.1	11.5	24.4	23.0	10.8	16.1
1958	9.0	11.7	13.5	22.5	19.7	16.9
1959	11.7	11.6	18.5	22.0	14.2	16.5
1960	14.2	11.5	15.2	21.7	17.0	17.1
1961	9.9	12.0	33.3	21.4	15.5	17.1

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers—

Medical Officer of Health—
Dr. H. S. Bury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector—
R. W. Settle, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.

Laboratory Facilities

The services of the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, is available for the examination of any material submitted by the Health Department or by General Practitioners. This service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council through the Ministry of Health, and there is no charge to the Council. The Laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs, sputum, urine and faeces, and blood from cases of suspected infectious disease, and advice and assistance is always available.

Services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946

1. Ambulance

The Bedfordshire County Council provides a complete service covering the whole of the County. The service is a twenty-four hour one and is free of charge, and is available for the removal of cases requiring admission to hospital and also for the transport of patients who are unable to use other means of transport to and from Hospitals or Clinics, so that they can receive any necessary treatment. The request for the provision of an ambulance must be made by a General Practitioner or by an Authorised Person.

The service is also available for the transport of persons suffering from infectious disease to isolation hospital.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County :

Biggleswade...Crab Lane ... Tel.—Biggleswade 2295
Bedford ... Bedford Road,
Kempston ... Tel.—Bedford 5335 & 5336

2. Midwifery and Domiciliary Nursing

Name and Address of Nurse—

Miss A. Pearson, 68 St. Neots Road, Sandy, Beds.

Tel. No.—Sandy 105

3. Health Visiting

Name and Address of Health Visitor—

Miss M. C. Ramsey, 30 Bedford Road, Sandy, Beds.

4. Clinic Child Welfare

Church Room, Sandy—Every alternate Thursday afternoon.

General Provision of Health and Medical Services in the Area provided by the North Western Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

GENERAL HOSPITALS

Bedford Gen Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford
Bedford Gen. Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
North Herts. & South Beds. Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.
Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

GERIATRIC HOSPITALS

Bedford Gen. Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
Clapham Hospital, near Bedford
Biggleswade Hospital, Potton Road, Biggleswade

MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Bedford Gen. Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton

PSYCHIATRIC

Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey

MENTALLY SUB-NORMAL

Bromham Hospital, near Bedford

CHEST CLINIC (For Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford Gen. Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

Bedford Gen. Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford

MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

Biggleswade (The Lawns) Tuesdays 11.15 to 11.45 a.m.

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC

Biggleswade (The Lawns) Monday, Wednesday and Friday

afternoons

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Bedford Gen. Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. It is not plumbo-solvent. The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of a sample sent for examination is typical.

Chemical Results in parts per Million

Appearance—Bright, with very few particles

Turbidity	.....	.....	.....	Less than 3
Colour	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Odour	.....	.....	.....	Very slight chlorinous
Reaction pH	.....	.....	.....	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	.....	.....	.....	20
Electric Conductivity	.....	.....	.....	390
Total Solids	.....	.....	.....	270
Chlorine present as Chloride	.....	.....	.....	14
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	.....	.....	.....	200
Hardness—Total	.....	.....	.....	210
Carbonate	.....	.....	.....	200
Non-Carbonate	.....	.....	.....	10
Nitrate Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen*	.....	.....	.....	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen*	.....	.....	.....	0.000
Metals—Iron	.....	.....	.....	0.04
Other Metals	.....	.....	.....	Absent
Oxygen absorbed	.....	.....	.....	0.05
Residual Chlorine	.....	.....	.....	0.17

*To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar

1 day at 37 degs. C	.....	.....	.....	0 per ml.
2 days at 37 degs. C	.....	.....	.....	0 "
3 days at 20 degs. C	.....	.....	.....	0 "

	Present in	Absent from	Probable Number
Presumptive coli-aerogenes			
reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (type 1)	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not unduly so, contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Distribution of Water

All houses are supplied with mains water.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1961

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths registered
Erysipelas	1	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...
Measles	17	...
Acute Pneumonia	9	...

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1961.

Cleansing of Verminous People. Scabies Order, 1941

Treatment for infected persons is available at the Borough Treatment Centre, Bedford, by arrangement with the Borough of Bedford. No persons received treatment during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation

It is now possible to protect persons against an increasing number of infections by the use of vaccines and toxoids. The Bedfordshire County Council is responsible for the provision of this service which is given direct at clinics or through the General Medical Practitioners. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis are the diseases dealt with. The tables presented below are supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer and indicate the work carried out in the district during the year.

Diphtheria Only

<i>Age Groups</i>	Under 1	1—4	5—9	10—15	Totals
Primary injections	—	2	12	8	22
Booster injections	—	5	50	31	86

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined

<i>Age Groups</i>	Under 1	1—4	5—9	10—15	Totals
Primary injections	30	14	1	1	46
Booster injections	—	—	5	2	7

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

<i>Age Groups</i>	Under 1	1—4	5—9	10—15	Totals
Primary injections	6	—	1	—	7

Smallpox Vaccination Carried Out during the Year

<i>Age Groups</i>	Under		15 and over			Totals
	1	1	2-4	5-14		
Primary vaccinations	8	4	1	1	10	24
Re-vaccinations	...	...	...	1	6	7

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During the year the following injections against Poliomyelitis were carried out in the North Eastern Division :

Number who had the first two injections	...	4,775
Number who had the third injection	...	6,068
Number of children in the age group 7-11 years who had a fourth injection	...	5,634

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis is now available to senior schoolchildren and students and the following table shows the work carried out in the North Eastern Division during the year :

Number skin tested	...	...	...	826
Number found positive	...	...	...	89
Number found negative and vaccinated			...	710
Number of absentees carried forward to following year	...	...	...	27

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1947 to 1961.

	New Cases								Deaths							
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'y		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'y		Total						
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F
1947	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1948	1	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1949	2	4	...	1	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
1950	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1951	1	2	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1952	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1953	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1954	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1955	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1956	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1957	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1960	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit visited Sandy and a total of 455 persons were examined. No new cases were discovered.

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed at "The Lawns" every Tuesday morning, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1961

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report.

1. Drainage and Sewerage

The town is sewered along all the main streets and roads. Swaden, Stratford Road, Station Road, Ivel Road, Tempsford Road, Beeston Green and Seddington are not sewered.

2. Rivers and Streams

The Ivel Internal Drainage Board undertake the cleaning of all streams.

3. Houses connected to Sewer, etc.

1,166 Houses connected to sewer. 106 Houses with water closets connected to septic tanks. 54 Houses with pails.

Conversions from Pails to Water Closets

Total number of conversions since 1945	...	142
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4. Public Cleansing

The collection of household refuse and the emptying of pails is carried out by the Council's workmen in a ten cubic yard Karrier. The Karrier is supplemented by the tractor and trailer when necessary. The work is generally satisfactory. The emptying of cesspools is carried out by contract.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :

Total number of visits made	...	...	77,657
Ashbins emptied	...	...	72,800
Cesspools	...	...	15
Pail closets emptied	...	...	4842
Loads of refuse and night soil removed	...	...	776

Street Gullies are emptied regularly and street scavenging is done at regular intervals.

5. Public Health Inspection

The following inspections were made and nuisances abated or defects remedied by informal action :

Housing defects (including Council Houses)	...	1234
Unfit Houses	...	NIL
Water Wastage	...	2

Routine Inspections	...	...	...	620
(not including Council Houses)				
Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which				
Demolition Orders were made	...	...		NIL
Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in				
pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...		NIL

6. Shops

No action with regard to shops was found necessary.

7. Factories and Workshops

There are 39 Factories and Workshops on the Register and 165 visits have been made.

Builders	....	10	Electrician	....	1
Joiners	....		Millers	....	3
Painters	....		Motor Engineers	....	5
Plumbers	....		Printers	....	2
Bakers	....	2	Saddlers	....	1
Boot Repairers	....	2	Stone Mason	....	1
Cycle Repairers	....	2	Coach Builder	....	1
Gas Works	....	1	Clothing Factory	....	1
Packing Vegetable Goods	....	1	Scaffolding and Form Work	....	1
Animal Feeding Stuffs	1		Cafes	....	4

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I of Act

INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority				
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	39	150	...	...
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...				
Total	39	150	...	...

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness [s.1]
Overcrowding [s.2]
Unreasonable temperature [s.3]
Inadequate ventilation [s.4]
Ineffective drainage of floors [s.6]
Sanitary Conveniences : [s.7]
(a) Insufficient
(b) Unsuitable or def'tive
(c) Not separate for sexes
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)
Total

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110(1)c (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel making, etc'	4	...	...	...	...	...

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

3 Persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order,
3 Retail Purveyors only.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughter houses in the Urban District.

Shops, vehicles and places where food is prepared have been duly inspected and found to be in good order.

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption has been made.

Canned Fruit and Vegetables	—	—	—	3 cans
Canned Meat	—	—	—	3 cans
Vegetables	—	—	—	54 lbs.

(c) Ice Cream

Thirteen premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream. It is purchased from reputable manufacturers. Ice cream is not manufactured in the Urban District.

Sewage Disposal Works

There are now 1,166 houses connected to the sewer. The majority of the houses along the High Road have now been connected up to the sewer. The sewage from The Baulk and the High Road is forced over the River Ivel by means of two electric motors, automatic float control and squirrel cage type pumps situated in The Baulk.

The motors and pumps have given excellent results, and require the minimum of attention.

The sewage arrives at the works 13' 3" below ground level, and forced to the Continuous Flow Tanks by two Mirlees-Watson Electric Motors and centrifugal pumps. The motors have given an excellent performance. They are automatic and controlled by electrodes.

Several samples of the effluent were taken during the year and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination, the analysis of which proved satisfactory.

Number of visits made to Sewage Works approx. 450. The Works are satisfactory for the present requirements.

Summary of Electricity Consumed

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
January	1021	1230	1387	1006	1122	1528	1129	1930
February	1051	1013	999	1120	1054	1007	1236	1617
March	1109	1072	1173	1075	1100	1254	1241	1610
April	1008	1034	1013	901	959	1048	1114	1567
May	1105	1275	1069	1003	975	1058	1139	1432
June	1045	1214	1252	884	1280	994	1198	1268
July	969	1063	1066	994	1258	1200	1196	1298
August	1183	1068	1095	920	1010	1139	1309	1314
September	974	989	1085	944	1015	901	1425	1378
October	959	1099	1154	946	1056	992	1719	1458
November	1102	1157	920	933	1037	953	1960	1364
December	1206	1123	1039	1033	1142	1219	2256	1499

Rainfall

	Total	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours Inches	Date	No. of days with .01 or over	No. of days with .04 or over
January	1.70	.26	28	16	11
February	1.95	.41	27	14	13
March .....	.09	.05	31	2	2
April.....	2.005	.28	1	17	15
May .....	.57	.26	4	7	5
June	1.13	.82	12	7	4
July .....	.98	.32	12	6	6
August	2.29	.60	11	16	11
September ...	1.93	.73	13	11	10
October	2.14	.32	19, 4, 7	17	13
November ...	1.48	.56	10	11	7
December ...	2.52	.67	1	13	10
	18.785			137	107

Council Houses Painted

1947 ... 69	1952 ... NIL	1957 ... 89
1948 ... 48	1953 ... 83	1958 ... 70
1949 ... 91	1954 ... 79	1959 ... 86
1950 ... 65	1955 ... 81	1960 ... 108
1951 ... 81	1956 ... 81	1961 ... 105

Number of Houses owned by the Council

1945 ... 225	1953 ... 406
1946 ... 235 (10 pre-fab bungalows)	1954 ... 406
1947 ... 243	1955 ... 406
1948 ... 301	1956 ... 412
1949 ... 330	1957 ... 412
1950 ... 340	1958 ... 424
1951 ... 356	1959 ... 450
1956 ... 376	1960 ... 462
	1961 ... 478

Number of Houses erected since 1945

	Local Authority		Local Authority	
	Private	(pre-fab b'lows.)	Private	Private
1946 ... 10	2		1954 ... NIL	5
(pre-fab b'lows.)			1955 ... NIL	4
1947 ... 8	2		1956 ... 6	1
1948 ... 58	3		1957 ... NIL	2
1949 ... 29	5		1958 ... 12	3
1950 ... 10	7		1959 ... 26	3
1951 ... 16	2		(Cty. Council 2)	
1952 ... 20	8		1960 ... 12	7
1953 ... 30	6		1961 ... 16	8

Plans submitted during the year

Outline Development	...	...	...	36
Industrial Development	...	...	...	6
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	6
Additions and Extensions	...	...	...	20
Caravans	...	...	...	1
Garages	...	...	...	2
Advertisements	...	...	...	2
Agricultural and Horticultural Buildings	...	...	...	2
Shop Fronts	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4
Change of Use	...	...	...	3
T.V. Mast and Transmitting Station	...	...	...	1
Housing Estate containing 65 houses	...	...	...	1

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district.

New Streets and Sewers

New Roads	...	NIL
Sewers	...	NIL

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their consideration and support extended to me during the year, and to the Clerk to the Council, and the staff for their kind assistance and loyal co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

REG. W. SETTLE, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.,

Surveyor.